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We hope you find this publication informative. If there are stories and topics you would like to see in future issues, please let us know. This is your publication, and we want your feedback at **cumberlandlawyer@samford.edu.**



DEAN'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe that an entire year has passed since I joined the Cumberland law community. My time here has only reinforced—and indeed increased my appreciation for—what I already knew about Cumberland School of Law: that it is a phenomenal place to receive a legal education; the faculty are committed, collegial and caring; the staff are incredibly hard-working and go above and beyond what it takes to run a successful law school; and the students are ambitious, considerate and genuinely care about each other. I am so glad I became a part of this wonderful community.

We have had an exciting year. We hired three new full-time faculty, who joined us this fall. We have hired several new staff to help us continue our outstanding programs and have added new positions as we expand clinics and engage in more legal-education-related community outreach. We have improved academic programs, made plans to launch a podcast focused on research, hosted new and exciting academic conferences and panels, and I have had the pleasure of meeting with hundreds of our outstanding alumni.

But we have much work to do. We have just recently launched our 5 in Five Campaign, where we plan to raise at least \$2 million in each of five different program areas within the next five years. While our trial advocacy program was ranked 4th in the nation this past year, we want to be 1st. To do so we must compete more, and to compete more we must have the resources that our competitors have.

Beyond our outstanding veterans, innocence and criminal defense clinics, we want to expand our programs to include clinics with a transactional focus; ones that provide legal services to rural areas where lawyers are in increasingly short supply; that engage in mediation; that serve those with medical needs; and that serve our community in so many other ways.

We need resources for a Cumberland Connection program that will bring first-generation undergraduates to campus in the summer to take real law classes, prepare for the LSAT and become inspired to embark on a new path toward legal education.

We can leverage our location in Birmingham to develop a Civil Rights Center to tackle ongoing issues related to justice and equality, and to honor the sacrifices of those who fought for justice in the past by providing a forum to pursue justice in the future.

Additionally, we want to develop a Land Use and Natural Resources Law Center to tackle legal and policy issues related to Alabama's real estate market, city planning, forest industry, deltaic and coastal Alabama ecological systems, and Alabama's vast water resources.

To do all this, and to ensure that these programs are sustained far beyond my tenure as dean, we must grow endowed funds that allow these programs to exist and operate long into the future.

We can accomplish each of these goals with your help. We know that giving isn't easy when you don't know exactly what you are supporting, so that is why we are focusing on five specific programs. These initiatives are helping me pursue my purpose, and we appreciate your support in helping future Cumberland graduates find their purpose. Learn more about our initiatives and how to support them in the following pages.

The first meeting I had when trying to decide whether to pursue a career in legal academia was in 2008 with beloved Dean John Carroll—in the very office that I now occupy. He had a profound impact on the trajectory of my career, and while we are so very saddened by his passing we are grateful for his legacy of service and professionalism. The initiatives in our 5 in Five campaign are an extension of his legacy of community service and concern for the most vulnerable in society. I hope you will join us as we pave new pathways of opportunity for both future students and citizens in our community who need the valuable legal services that Cumberland-educated lawyers can provide.

Blake Hudson

Glake Hudson

Dean, Cumberland School of Law



A CAMPAIGN FOR CUMBERLAND SCHOOL OF LAW

For Cumberland School of Law to become financially self-sufficient in critical program areas over the next five years, we must raise \$10 million. The 5 in Five Campaign will raise \$2 million dollars in each of five program areas—advocacy and competitions, clinics, a civil rights center, a pipeline for first generation and underrepresented students, and a land use and natural resources center. The corpus of these endowments will remain, and the interest generated each year will support a programmatic legacy that will dramatically impact our students, our community and the legal profession.

ADVOCACY AND COMPETITION PROGRAMS

Cumberland School of Law is consistently ranked as a top 10 school for trial advocacy, but we aspire to be 1st. Currently our competition teams can only travel to and participate in about half of the competitions in which our rival schools compete. To improve our national stature in the advocacy education realm and rise back to the top, our students need resources to take their phenomenal skills on the road more often.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS

Clinics offer our students invaluable opportunities to receive both practical legal experience and serve our community, each a hallmark of a Cumberland School of Law education. We help veterans and criminal defendants with a variety of needs but want to expand clinical opportunities into the areas of medical-legal partnerships, affordable housing and evictions, anti-human trafficking, environmental policy, transactional law and other areas. Unlike most law schools, Cumberland does not have a permanent source of funding for our clinics, which is crucial to continuing and expanding these opportunities for our students and our community.

CIVIL RIGHTS CENTER

Birmingham is the birthplace of the civil rights movement. As an important fixture of the Birmingham community, Cumberland School of Law has an opportunity to fill a void in the Southeast by being the premier locus of discussion and action on these issues. Funding for a Civil Rights Center will allow the law school to offer educational opportunities that celebrate Birmingham's rich civil rights history and confront emerging civil rights issues. A new center will inspire action on important matters while impacting our students, community and the national conversation on civil rights.

CUMBERLAND CONNECTION PROGRAM

To stay competitive on the national stage of legal education, Cumberland School of Law must expand its applicant pool. It can do so by creating pathways of opportunity for first generation and underrepresented groups. Funding for a Cumberland Connection program will allow Cumberland to develop a formal pipeline to bring undergraduate students from these backgrounds to campus during the summer, provide them mock law school class experiences, LSAT preparation and introduce them to Cumberland's academic programming. By expanding our reach, we will be able to diversify our student body and provide the opportunity to enter the practice of law to students who may not yet see it as a possibility.

LAND USE AND NATURAL RESOURCES LAW CENTER

Alabama is a state rich in forest, water and other critical natural resources. Yet, no law school in the state has a program aimed at addressing policy issues related to these resources. Funding for a Land Use and Natural Resources Law Center will allow Cumberland School of Law's faculty and students to address environmental issues from water quality to land development to the forest industry and urban sprawl. A state like Alabama with abundant natural resources should have a center aimed at engaging in legal and policy work on these and other important issues.



Support these campaign initiatives at samford.edu/law/giving or by scanning the QR code.



Banner Year Primes Advocacy Programs *for Continued Success*

Cumberland School of Law's trial advocacy program has been recognized as a top program in the nation since its beginnings in the 1970s. And, in 2023, Cumberland's program reached its highest rankings ever—4th in the nation in Trial Advocacy by *U.S. News & World Report* and 2nd in the nation overall since 2019 in the GAVEL Trial Advocacy Rankings.

Over the last year, the success of the trial advocacy program has been displayed through the achievements of its national trial competition teams. Competition results dating back to spring 2022 include, among other results:

- American Association of Justice
 Student Trial Advocacy Competition,
 National 2nd and 5th Place
- American Association of Justice
 Student Trial Advocacy Competition
 Co-Champions (Regional Sweep)
- National Trial Competition, Regional Semifinalists
- Trials and Tribulations Competition,
 Quarterfinals and Two Outstanding
 Advocate Awards
- South Texas Mock Trial Challenge,
 Final Four and Outstanding Advocate
 Award
- Flash Trial Competition, 5th Place and Professionalism Award
- Battle of the Experts, 3rd Place
- Syracuse National Trial Competition,
 Semifinalist and Best Advocate Award
- National Trial Competition Regional Co-Champions (3rd Consecutive Regional Sweep)
- American Association of Justice
 Regional Champion and Regional Finalist
- American Association of Justice National Quarterfinalist
- The Verdict Trial Competition 3rd Place
- South Texas Mock Trial Challenge
 Sweet 16 and Outstanding Advocate
 Award winner
- Top Gun National Trial Competition Professionalism Award

In addition to competition success, recent curricular additions and professional experiences have expanded the reach of the program.

A new experiential course, Alabama
Criminal Practice and Procedure, teaches
students to excel in the courtroom in
non-trial contexts such as preliminary
hearings, bond hearings, sentencing
hearings and more. Additionally, now there
are even more offerings of existing courses
such as Jury Selection, Negotiation,
Depositions, and Pre-Trial Practice and
Procedure. And the addition of two sections

to the Basic Skills in Trial Advocacy has created an additional 80 seats in advocacy courses to prepare Cumberland graduates to enter litigation fields ready to advocate for their clients effectively and ethically.

In April 2023, renowned trial attorney Mike Papantonio, J.D. '81, generously hosted Cumberland School of Law students at his Mass Torts Made Perfect conference in Las Vegas. As founder of the conference, Papantonio personally invited National Trial Team members to attend the cutting-edge event. There, they engaged with hundreds of plaintiff attorneys from across the nation



Elise Driskill, J.D. '23, Taylor Lavin Holland, J.D. '23, and Dean Blake Hudson with Mike Papantonio, J.D. '81, at the Mass Torts Made Perfect conference in Las Vegas.

while learning more about the practice of mass torts and discussing how to better integrate training relevant to mass torts into the law school curriculum.

Matt Woodham, J.D. '15, assistant director of advocacy programs, said, "The latest rankings and activity of our trial advocacy program reflect an excellent year for Cumberland in terms of competition results, curricular growth, and service to the trial advocacy education community. But, above all, these rankings are well-deserved recognition of the tireless and exemplary work our coaches and students put in to preparing the next generation of practice-ready lawyers to do real good for real people."

In addition to the trial advocacy program's success, Cumberland's moot court and alternative dispute resolution competition teams had an excellent year with results including:

- 31st Annual Duberstein National Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition, Sweet 16 and Best Advocate Award
- Esports National Negotiation Competition,
 Quarterfinalist and Semifinalist
- American Bar Association Arbitration Regional, Two Semifinalist Teams
- ABA Moot Court Appellate Advocacy Regional Competition Champion
- ABA Moot Court Appellate Advocacy National Competition Quarterfinalist
- Transatlantic Negotiation Competition U.S. Runner-Up

This banner year, paired with new fundraising initiatives, has primed the entire advocacy program for continued success to assure that Cumberland School of Law remains a pillar of advocacy training in the United States.



Cumberland School of Law advocacy programs are successful because of the contributions of its volunteer coaches. **We're grateful for your selfless dedication.**

TRIAL ADVOCACY

Mike Rasmussen, J.D. '76 Judge Jim Roberts, J.D. '94 Sara Williams, J.D. '06 Julie McMakin, J.D. '09 Michael Eldridge, J.D. '12 Blake Milner, J.D. '14 Spenser Templeton, J.D. '15 Matt Woodham, J.D. '15 Curtis Seal, J.D. '17 Walt Cobb, J.D. '19 Craig Shirley, J.D. '19 Lana Bell, J.D. '20 Tess Bray, J.D. '20 Bella Colombo, J.D. '20 John Banks, J.D., M.B.A. '21 Rvlee Davis, J.D. '21 Trent Testa, J.D. '21

NEGOTIATION

Ben Warren, J.D. '18 Kevin Buford, J.D. '17

ARBITRATION

JC Lentine, J.D. '20 Anthony Bowling, J.D. '17

MEDIATION

Travis Johns, J.D. '18 Hannah Trucks, J.D. '21

MOOT COURT

Charlie Shah, J.D. '96 Clay Williams, J.D. '99 Bill Bensinger '98, J.D. '03 Emily Hopper, J.D. '19

Alumna and Nationally Recognized Trial Lawyer, Sara Williams, Joins Faculty

Sara Williams, J.D. '06, has joined the law school faculty as the visiting director of advocacy for the 2023-24 academic year. Williams is exceptionally qualified for this role as an alumna, former adjunct professor and trial team coach, as well as being a nationally recognized trial lawyer and litigation skills speaker.

Williams said, "It is an immense honor to have the opportunity to serve as director of advocacy at Cumberland School of Law for the 2023-24 school year. The foundation I received at Cumberland has been pivotal in every step of my career. The work being done in Cumberland's advocacy program does more than just shape careers, it transforms lives, just as it was instrumental in transforming mine and I am grateful to have the opportunity to help lead this amazing program into the future."

As a Cumberland School of Law student, she was an active member of the advocacy teams and other student organizations, including being the winner of the American Bar Association's 2005 National Mediation Competition, the president of the Black Law Students Association and chief judge of the Trial Advocacy Board.

As an alumna, her involvement with Cumberland School of Law began not long after she graduated. In 2010, she began coaching mock trial teams and teaching Basic Skills in Trial Advocacy as an adjunct professor. Since then, she has been integral in developing and teaching courses such as Advanced Skills in Trial Advocacy Civil and Deposition Skills and Technology. She joined the Cumberland School of Law advisory board in 2015 and served in that capacity until 2023, and was named the Volunteer of the Year as part of the law school's 2016 Distinguished Alumni Awards.

She currently practices at Alexander Shunnarah Trial Attorneys in Birmingham, Alabama, where she primarily works on trucking, wrongful death and catastrophic injury litigation. From 2017 through 2021, she served as the firm's managing attorney. During that time the firm grew to include hundreds of attorneys and staff in offices in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and Massachusetts. Prior to joining the Shunnarah firm, Williams spent the first seven years of her career as an insurance

defense lawyer. Her continued involvement in ongoing cases will allow her to remain engaged in the legal community in ways that directly benefit the training she is able to provide to students.

Well recognized in the national legal community, Williams is a member of the Board of Governors for the American Association for Justice (AAJ), was the 2022-23 president of the National Women Lawyers Association, and served as a co-chair for the AAJ's Law Schools Committee for three consecutive years. She was also the 2022

recipient of the Marie Lambert Award from the AAJ's Women Trial Lawyer's Caucus. She is a frequent speaker at AAJ conferences and conferences hosted by the National Trial Lawyers and the Academy of Truck Accident Attorneys. Williams also served as the keynote speaker for the 2023 Women in Trial Travel Summit. In Alabama, Williams has served as the secretary of the Alabama Lawyers Association and was the 2022-23 president of the Homewood City Schools Foundation Board.



2023 DISTINGUISHED

ALUMNI AWARDS -

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR -

INSPIRING NOBLE ADVOCATES

The Steadfast Leadership of Judge Jim Roberts

When you think of Cumberland School of Law's nationally recognized trial advocacy program, it's no doubt that student accomplishments immediately come to mind. But what you may be less familiar with are the dozens of coaches who volunteer their spare time to prepare the students to become the best advocates they can be—in competition and in life. And, behind it all is the steadfast leadership of Judge Jim Roberts, J.D. '94, director of National Trial Teams and our 2023 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year.

Judge James H. (Jim) Roberts, circuit court judge for Alabama's Sixth Judicial Circuit, has been a mainstay of the program since 1998. During his tenure, Cumberland's trial teams have won numerous regional and national trial competitions, several professionalism awards and many individual advocacy awards. Cumberland has been consistently ranked as one of the top 10 trial advocacy programs in the country by *U.S.*

News & World Report (currently 4th for 2024), Fordham University's Trial Performance Rankings and Hofstra University's GAVEL Rankings.

Roberts is also a well-respected figure in the national trial advocacy community. He serves on the board of directors for the Tournament of Champions, and served on the organizational committee that created

the National Association of Legal Advocacy Educators and on its inaugural board of directors.

In 2022, he was selected by advocacy educators across the nation as only the third recipient of the Cornerstone Award, which recognizes unwavering commitment to protecting the right to trial by jury and the development of training opportunities for trial lawyers and was recognized by the American Association of Justice with a special award for his work to revive the Student Trial Advocacy Competition. The impact he has had on the trial advocacy community goes far beyond his success as a trial team director and coach. As Sara Williams, J.D. '06, visiting director of Advocacy Programs, explained, it is Judge Roberts' philosophy on advocacy education the makes him special and Cumberland's program unique.

Williams said, "While as his student, I knew that Judge Roberts was special, it was not until I began practicing that I realized how unique his teaching methods were. Instead of attempting to create trial advocacy robots, he takes a different approach. Judge



Roberts seeks to unearth the powerfulness that each student already has within them and teaches us to honor and celebrate our differences rather than shy away from them or attempt to conform."

Matt Woodham, J.D. '15, assistant director of advocacy programs, said, "Almost everything that makes Cumberland's advocacy program what it is today can be directly traced to Judge Roberts. When he began teaching, we had two trial team coaches and, if we were lucky, Cumberland was represented in two national competitions each year. Twenty-five years, and many championships later, our program consists of 16 extraordinary coaches who lead our students in roughly a dozen premier competitions each year. All of those coaches have one thing in common: we are all Judge's students. We are all better lawyers, better teachers and better people because of the incredible contributions that he has made to Cumberland."

Williams continued, "Judge Roberts teaches us that trial advocacy encompasses the ability to have empathy for both those you represent and those you oppose. Through this, he develops and inspires his students by teaching everyone he encounters that their superpower is being themselves, that their voice is worthy of being heard, that they are worthy of taking up space in any and every courtroom in this country."

Through his extensive individual success, Roberts' passion for inspiring future
Cumberland lawyers shines. He said, "We encourage them, we inspire them, and, if all things go well, we ignite in them a passion for being a real lawyer, representing real people with real problems. Ultimately, they get to affect lives long after we're all gone, and through that, what we do lives on."



2023 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS



DISTINGUISHED YOUNG ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

HILAIRE ARMSTRONG '12, J.D., M.B.A. '16

Hilaire Armstrong, a native of Hoover, Alabama, is a two-time graduate of Samford University. In 2012, she received her bachelor's degree in political science and Spanish. Then, in 2016 she received a joint degree from Samford's Brock School of Business and Cumberland School of Law. During her time at Cumberland, Armstrong served as president of Women in Law and as the 2015-16 southern regional chair of the National Black Law Students Association.

Armstrong's career has focused on public interest work. Explaining her passion, she

said, "It's what I love to do. I believe every-body has a purpose in life, and mine is to help people." Armstrong's public interest passion led her to internships with the Jefferson County Public Defenders' Office, the Alabama Senate, and the Jefferson County Family Court. After completing a postgraduate fellowship at Cumberland, she became the first law clerk for newly elected Circuit Judge Javon Patton.

Armstrong then went on to join Legal Services Alabama as a staff attorney, sharing that this experience was "a great opportu-

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

BILL BENSINGER '98, J.D. '03

Bill Bensinger graduated from Samford University in 1998 and again in 2003 with his J.D. from Cumberland School of Law. After graduating from Cumberland, Bill received his LL.M. in bankruptcy from St. John's University School of Law in 2005.

Bensinger is currently a partner at Christian & Small LLP in Birmingham, Alabama, where he focuses his practice on commercial dispute litigation, and commercial bankruptcy and restructuring litigation. He represents debtors, trustees, creditors, franchisors, landlords, unsecured creditors' committees and financial institutions in a wide variety of bankruptcy matters, including

preference and fraudulent transfer actions, workout transactions, and insolvency matters. Bensinger represents franchisors in bankruptcy, including matters concerning the assumption of franchise agreements, and represents landlords in bank matters concerning the assumption of commercial leases. His work on behalf of financial institutions includes general creditor's rights litigation, collection, lien enforcement, cash collateral, relief from stay, and plan confirmation issues. Bill also maintains an active appellate practice and has argued cases before the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Fifth and 11th Circuits, and the Supreme Court of the United States.



nity to help people with legal issues that affect their livelihood and ability to provide for their families." Her next career move led her to serve several years as the first Alabama Bankruptcy Assistance project coordinator for the statewide Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Project. These days, Armstrong works for the Alabama State Bar as its first pro bono clinic coordinator, concentrating on expanding access to justice by increasing the number of lawyers doing pro bono work and broadening client services.

While Armstrong is active in the legal profession, she still finds time to volunteer at Cumberland School of Law, provide valuable insight to law-related discussions and CLEs and model professionalism before students.

For 15 years, he has given back to his law school by mentoring students as a coach of moot court competition teams. Since 2008, he has coached teams that compete in the Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition at St. John's University School of Law in New York. As a coach, he has helped students prepare for oral arguments by talking through difficult issues of bankruptcy law, organizing practice rounds with local lawyers and bankruptcy judges, and sharpening students' presentations. He holds his teams to high standards of preparation and professionalism. In 2023, Bensinger's team advanced to the round of 16 and both members of the team won individual awards for outstanding advocacy. His volunteer service has enhanced those students' law school experiences while also meeting Cumberland School of Law's educational mission.

FRIEND OF CUMBERLAND

CARLA CROWDER

Carla Crowder is the executive director of Alabama Appleseed, a nonprofit law center. Crowder joined Appleseed in 2019 and directs the organization's policy advocacy agenda and legal efforts centered at the intersection of poverty and the criminal justice system.

A native Alabamian and graduate of the University of Alabama School of Law, Crowder has three decades of experience in criminal justice reform as a journalist and civil rights attorney. She has represented dozens of incarcerated Alabamians and recently won release for 12 men originally sentenced to die in prison.



Prior to joining Appleseed, she was a staff attorney at the Equal Justice Initiative. She also had a 16-year career as a newspaper reporter at statewide newspapers in New Mexico, Colorado and Alabama, where she was twice nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. As director of Alabama Appleseed, Carla has grown the small nonprofit from a staff of four to a staff of 12, added an office in Birmingham, and added legal representation of incarcerated people and reentry services to its mission.

As a friend of Cumberland School of Law, she speaks to first-year students in criminal law classes, has offered internships to students, and has served as a mentor to many. When speaking of her experience of connecting to Cumberland School of Law students, Carla noted, "it's important to me as an advocate for criminal justice reform in Alabama to help law students understand the immense human rights challenges in Alabama's prison system. These future lawyers have the ability to shape our state in ways that will create more justice, equity and mercy for future generations of Alabamians. Every time I speak at Cumberland and visit with students, I'm encouraged by such deep and heartfelt interest in creating a more just and fair Alabama."

Welcome New Faculty and Staff

Over the last year, we've welcomed many new faces to Cumberland School of Law. This fall, three new full-time faculty members have joined us.



Carlissa Carson previously served as an adjunct professor at Emory University School of Law in Atlanta, Georgia, where she was also a senior staff attorney in the Emory Law Volunteer Clinic for Veterans. She taught courses such as Counterterrorism Law and Veterans Benefit Law. Prior to teaching, she was an associate attorney at a large law firm in Atlanta, and more recently served as district counsel for the U.S. Small Business Administration. She also served nine years in the U.S. Army Reserve. She was a military intelligence officer and a judge advocate before leaving the Army in 2012. Her recent articles have been published in the Louisiana Law Review, the Connecticut Journal of International Law and the Emory Law Journal, and she has one forthcoming in the Nebraska Law Review. She has presented on topics such as VA disability benefits and international legal issues and has been awarded numerous honors including the Meritorious Service Medal, the Military Outstanding Volunteer

Service Medal, Emory Law's Young Alumni Award, and the State Bar of Georgia's Marshall-Tuttle Award. Carson earned her bachelor's degree in political science from Oglethorpe University, her J.D. from Emory University School of Law, and her LL.M. from Georgetown University Law Center.



Over the past year, **Layne Keele** has taught Contracts and Pretrial Practice as a visiting associate professor at Cumberland School of Law and has now joined the faculty full time. Previously he was an associate professor of law and the associate dean of academic affairs at Faulkner University's Thomas Goode Jones School of Law. There, he was awarded Professor of the Year in 2018 and served as chair of Strategic Planning and chair of Student Life. He has taught a variety of courses such as Appellate Advocacy, Civil Procedure, Conflict of Laws, Contracts, Criminal Law, Patent Law Seminar, Pretrial Practice, Remedies and Sales. Prior to academia, he was an associate attorney for large firms in both Dallas, Texas, and Nashville, Tennessee. During his career, he has written many books including *The Pretrial Process*, A Billion-Dollar Mistake: Restitution and the Discharge-for-Value Rule, and Religion and the Academy: Maintaining Space in Law for Religious Institutions. Keele received his J.D. from Indiana University School of Law and his bachelor's degree at Freed-Hardeman University.



Lane Woodke has also joined the full-time faculty. Prior to teaching, Woodke worked in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Alabama where she supervised all civil litigation for the district, mentored new civil chiefs in various districts, coordinated Civil Health Care Fraud and Affirmative Civil Enforcement cases for the district, and supervised over 2,500 cases. She has also worked in the office's General Litigation Civil Division where she handled cases of Federal Employment Discrimination and Federal Tort Claims Act for agencies such as NASA, the U.S. Army, the U.S. Postal Service and the U.S. Department of Defense. Prior to all this, Woodke clerked for the Honorable Sharon Lovelace Blackburn, J.D. '77, and has worked in the private sector. Woodke received her J.D. and bachelor's degrees from the University of Alabama.

In addition to these faculty members joining us, our legal writing faculty positions have been converted to full-time positions. Robin Andrews, J.D. '91, Laura Taaffe, Emily Price and Brooke Nixon, J.D. '08, were named full-time assistant professors of Legal Research and Writing. While Andrews, Taaffe and Price are veteran Cumberland legal writing instructors, Nixon is new to the team, and we look forward to what she will add to our legal writing program.

Also, we have welcomed new staff members—some are completely new faces, and some have rejoined us or taken on additional responsibilities.

Cassandra Adams,

Dean of Students and Community Outreach

Scott Collins,

Director of Operations

Emily Davey,

Director of Clinics, Externships and Public Interest

Charmayne Fillmore,

Director of Continuing Legal Education

Robert Maddox, J.D. '00,

Instructor in Residence

Kerry McInerney, J.D. '98,

Director of Graduate and International Programs

Paige Yarbrough '09, J.D. '12,

Career Counselor

Cat Miaoulis.

Director of Admissions

Sara Williams, J.D. '06,

Visiting Director of Advocacy Programs

Kimberly Merritt,

Trial Advocacy Program Coordinator

Skye McCammon,

Program Assistant

Davina Mitchell,

Program Assistant

Kevla Tidwell,

Admission Counselor

Dean Blake Hudson said, "We are thrilled to have fantastic new faculty and staff with us at Cumberland law. Everyone joining us has an exceptional professional record and will fit right into our community that values collegiality, service, and a hard work ethic. Our students will be better served, and their educational experience greatly enhanced because of the wonderful group of people who have joined us in our mission to be an exceptional law school."

Learn more about these new faculty and staff members at **samford.edu/law/directory**.

A GLIMPSE AT FACULTY ACTIVITIES —



Ramona Albin

Associate professor Ramona Albin received the Harvey S. Jackson Excellence in Teaching Award for first year courses for the 2022-23 academic year, her third teaching award in six years. Over the last year, she participated as a member of the Steering Committee for the 11th Circuit Appellate Practice Institute (ECAPI), a continuing legal education conference for appellate practitioners in the 11th Circuit. On March 24, she presented her work in progress titled, "The Persistence of Rape Mythology: A Comparative Approach," to the Cumberland School of Law faculty. And, on May 17, Albin was a presenter in an online conference sponsored by the Temple Beasley School of Law on "Innovations in Advocacy Teaching."



Chinelo Diké-Minor

Assistant professor Chinelo Diké-Minor had her article "The Untold Story of the United States' Anti-Kickback Laws," published in the *Rutgers Journal of Law and Public Policy*, and her forthcoming article, "The Devil Made Me Do It: An Argument for Expanding the Anti-Kickback Statute to Cover Private Payers," will be published in the *Connecticut Law Review*. She presented her research at the Annual Health Law Scholars Workshop co-sponsored by American Society of Law, Medicine and Ethics and the Saint Louis University School of Law Center for Health Law Studies and the Health Law Professors Conference sponsored by the American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics & the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law.



Brannon P. Denning

Professor Brannon Denning has had a new casebook, American Constitutional Law: Powers and Liberties, Seventh Edition, published. As well, "Ipse Dixits, Bootstraps, and Constitutional Doctrine" was published in the Baylor Law Review. His forthcoming publications include To Trust the People with Arms: The Supreme Court and the Second Amendment, which he co-authored with Robert J. Cottrol, and Retconning Heller: Five Takes on New York Rifle & Pistol Ass'n v. Bruen, written with Glenn H. Reynolds for the William & Mary Law Review. In May, his presentations included "Privacy and Autonomy Post-Dobb" at the University of Louisville School of Law Discussion Forum and "Retconning Heller: Five Takes on New York Rifle and Pistol Ass'n v. Bruen," at the Federalist Society Lawyers Chapter in Huntsville, Alabama. He has also presented his research at various conferences and colloquia over the last year.



Alyssa DiRusso

Professor Alyssa DiRusso has an upcoming textbook, Federal Taxation of Wealth Transfers, fifth edition, that will be published by Aspen Publishing in 2024. DiRusso's recent articles include "Identity Appropriation and Wealth Transfer: Twain, Cord, and the Post-Mortem Right of Publicity" published in fall 2022 in the American College of Trust & Estate Counsel Law Journal co-authored with Cumberland School of Law's Tim McFarlin, and "Life and Death Matters in Conflicts of Laws," forthcoming in the Tulane Law Review. In July, DiRusso presented on trusts and estates pedagogy at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools.



Tim McFarlin

Associate professor Tim McFarlin completed his multipart project revolving around whether Mark Twain infringed a once-enslaved person's copyright. The first part, "A Copyright Ignored: Mark Twain, Mary Ann Cord, and the Meaning of Authorship," will be published this fall in the Journal of the Copyright Society of the U.S.A. The second part, "A Copyright Restored: Mark Twain, Mary Ann Cord, and How to Right a Longstanding Wrong," was published last spring in the Wisconsin Law Review. And the third part, coauthored with Alyssa DiRusso, "Identity Appropriation and Wealth Transfer: Twain, Cord, and the Post-Mortem Right of Publicity," was published last fall in the American College of Trust & Estate Counsel Law Journal. McFarlin has presented on this project across the country, including at the Marquette University Law School, Texas A&M University School of Law, University of Houston Law Center, University of New Hampshire's Franklin Pierce School of Law and Yeshiva University's Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, as well as at Elmira College, on the site where Mary Ann Cord told Twain the story that inspired the project.



Tracey Roberts

This spring, professor Tracey Roberts published "A Man for His Time and for Ours: Cordell Hull - Father of the Federal Income Tax" in the Cumberland Law Review. She presented "The ESG Case for the Carbon Tax" at the 12th Annual Energy Law Symposium at Texas A&M Law School, in Fort Worth, Texas, on March 23, and at the Society for Environmental Law and Economics at the University of Cambridge, on June 26. On May 12, she presented "Taxation and the High Road to Servitude" at the annual meeting of the Association of Law, Property, and Society, at the University of Southampton, in Southampton, England. On Jan. 26, she fielded questions about environmental taxes and subsidies, climate change and the Inflation Reduction Act for the Tax Policy and Simplification Book Club of the American Bar Association which read her co-edited volume, Tax Law and the Environment. During the fall of 2022 Roberts continued her work for a postgraduate diploma in theology and religion at the University of Oxford, in Oxford, England. She also continued her work for the popular national media blog, Tax Prof Blog, reviewing seven articles.



EXPANDING SYMPOSIA FOOTPRINT

In April 2023, Cumberland School of Law's Continuing Legal Education department hosted a symposium that focused on water crises and environmental justice. A panel of specialized experts joined us from across the country to discuss the topic with nearly 100 attendees.

Plans are underway to expand this platform and launch more symposia that enhance our faculty member specialty areas. Stay tuned to our website for announcements about our regularly scheduled seminars and symposia.

Dean Blake Hudson with the April 2023 symposium keynote speaker Camille Pannu, associate clinical professor of law at Columbia Law School.

samford.edu/go/cle



COMPLIANCE ALERT

Considering the Federal Government's Recent Shift to Ban Non-Competes

By Mitch Surface, J.D., LL.M. '21



In recent months, the federal government has sought to prohibit non-competition clauses (non-competes) in independent contractor and employment agreements. It is estimated that 30 million workers would be impacted by the federal government's new interpretation of long-standing laws. As such, compliance and regulatory advisers should reconsider how to counsel clients with respect to non-competes, which starts with understanding the current thinking of the two federal agencies seeking to broadly ban non-competes in the United States.

On July 9, 2021, the Biden Administration issued an executive order on promoting competition in the American economy, which encouraged federal agencies to "curtail the unfair use of non-compete clauses" that "may unfairly limit worker mobility." Federal agencies then began taking steps to prohibit non-competes in employment agreements.

First, on Jan. 5, 2023, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) published a proposed rule that broadly bans non-competes in independent contractor and employment agreements. Second, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) announced in a memo on May 30, 2023 that non-competes in employment agreements violate the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) except in limited circumstances. To avoid violating the FTC's proposed rule, employers generally must create workplace policies and procedures that:

- **1.** Prevent employers from forcing (or attempting to force) employees into entering into non-competes.
- **2.** Prevent employers from implying that employees are subject to non-competes.
- **3.** Ensure that adequate and timely notice is provided to employees on rescinding the non-competes.
- **4.** Guarantee that the new policies apply to all employees, independent contractors, and anyone who works for an employer, whether they are paid or unpaid (e.g., externs, interns, volunteers, apprentices, etc.).

The FTC rule may also apply to nondisclosure, training repayment or non-solicitation agreements that are so broad that they functionally block a worker from working anywhere else in their field. The only exception to the proposed rule is a non-compete used in the sale of a business or between franchisors and their franchisees. Members of the public had until April 19, 2023, to submit comments on the proposed rule. The FTC has almost 27,000 comments to review and may revise the rule

before making it final; therefore, it may be later this year before a final rule is published.

While the FTC's proposed rule applies to all workers, the NLRB's memo prohibits non-competes in employment agreements only. The NLRB's position is that non-competes directed to low-wage and middle-wage workers are overly broad and violate the NLRA. There are exceptions for non-competes that are "narrowly tailored to special circumstances justifying the infringement on employee rights" or restrict only a management or ownership interest in a competing business. However, the memo indicates that these exceptions do not apply to:

- **1.** Agreements based only on a desire to avoid competition from former employees
- **2.** Agreements based merely on business interests in retaining employees
- **3.** Agreements based on protecting special investments in training employees

The key take-aways: employers should consider removing non-competes from all current employment agreement forms; avoid using non-competes with lower wage and middle wage workers; only require employees who possess true protectable interests to sign them; and stay up to date on the ongoing changes to the federal regulations to ensure compliance.

Mitch Surface is a 2021 graduate of Cumberland School of Law's joint J.D./LL.M. program where he concentrated in health law and compliance. He practices health care law at Maynard Nexsen in Birmingham, Alabama.



"I HAVE A KEEN INTEREST in the intersection of the profession of law and the business of legal enterprise. A great law firm, no matter the size, will run better if the lawyers have an idea of how to budget for a specific matter, how to hire the right person to work for them, how to protect their clients' privacy, or how to make

When I learned that I could get an LL.M. in this area of study—increase my professional value while feeding my curiosity—I knew Cumberland was the program for me.

sure that they are managing their firm's risk properly.

The course work is practical and intended to translate to success in the business of operating a law firm. Law school taught me to 'think like a lawyer'. Earning my LL.M. from Cumberland School of Law taught me to think like a COO."

Jill Rothstein is a 2020 graduate of Cumberland School of Law's online Master of Laws program where she concentrated in legal operations. She is the associate general counsel at Womble Bond Dickinson LLP in Greenville, South Carolina.

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Alumnae Chambliss and White Selected for Prestigious Judicial Clerkships

By Morgan Black

Two members of Cumberland School of Law's class of 2023 secured judicial clerkships for the year after graduation. Haleigh Chambliss and Abigail White are working for Associate Justice Greg Cook of the Supreme Court of Alabama during the 2023-24 term.

Chambliss said, "I am grateful for the opportunity to clerk for the Supreme Court of Alabama. The ability to work in Justice Cook's chambers is proving to

be an invaluable experience, and I know I will profit greatly from his knowledge, experience and mentorship."

White, too, expressed her gratitude, noting, "It is an honor to begin my legal career with Justice Cook while having the opportunity to gain unique insight, practical experience and incomparable mentorship from him and his staff."

Chambliss, of Halls,
Tennessee, served as editorin-chief of the *Cumberland Law Review* and was a Caruthers
Fellow, supporting the
Lawyering and Legal
Reasoning program. White, of
Adger, Alabama, served as
managing editor of the *Cumberland Law Review* and
was director of mediation for
the Trial Advocacy Board.

Additionally, both graduated at the top of their class—an accomplishment not gone unnoticed by Justice Cook.



White and Chambliss with Supreme Court of Alabama Associate Justice Greg Cook during a reception held in the court's chambers.

"I am thrilled to have Haleigh and Abigail as clerks," Cook said. "They were at the very top of their class, and I know Cumberland School of Law has

> prepared them well. The U.S. Supreme Court is sending more and more issues to state supreme courts, and we need lawyers of the caliber of Haleigh and Abigail."

Judicial clerkship opportunities allow Cumberland School of Law students and young graduates the chance to see litigation from the judges' side of the bench, working closely with their judges and co-clerks, reviewing written briefs, conducting legal research and assisting them in preparing for oral arguments and written opinions. They gain valuable experience participating in the day-to-day work of their judges' courts and learning how they make decisions on a wide variety of legal issues. At the same time, they sharpen their legal research, analysis and writing skills in preparation for law practice.

In recent years, Cumberland graduates have served as law clerks for judges on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and the United States District Courts for the Middle, Northern and Southern Districts of Alabama. Others have worked for judges on the Supreme Court of Alabama and the Court of Civil Appeals, as well as state trial courts in Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile and Tuscaloosa.

Chambliss and White follow Daniel Moss, J.D. '20, who served as a law clerk for Associate Justice Jay Mitchell at the Supreme Court of Alabama. They are both grateful for their experiences and for the faculty and staff at Cumberland School of Law that prepared them for this opportunity.

To assist qualified students seeking judicial clerkships, Cumberland School of Law's Career Development Office provides information sessions and materials about clerkship opportunities, as well as support in the highly competitive application process. In addition, three faculty members—Jeff Anderson, associate professor, Chinelo Diké-Minor, assistant professor and the law school's judicial clerkships coordinator, and Laura Taaffe, assistant professor of legal research and writing have been designated to provide advice to students considering judicial clerkships. All three served as judicial clerks during their professional careers.





UPDATE FROM THE

Career Development Office



95% employment rate

(class of 2022, 10 months after graduation, who are not pursuing an additional graduate degree)

The 2022-23 academic year was both busy and successful for Cumberland School of Law's Career Development Office (CDO). Through individual career counseling, curated events and programs, and the fostering of robust connections with legal employers, the CDO strives to be an effective resource for students and alumni as they cultivate their legal careers.

This year's programming included:

- Called to the Bar: A weekly professionalism class where first-year students learn crucial practical skills that empower them to successfully navigate the legal job market, including drafting legal résumés and cover letters, interviewing effectively with legal employers and developing their professional network.
- Rascal Talks: Intimate one-hour panel discussions featuring attorneys from across the spectrum of practice areas, including tax, family law, sports and children's advocacy.
- Career Fairs and Networking Events: Large gatherings featuring numerous employers representing broad practice areas such as public interest, criminal prosecution and J.D.-advantage careers.
- Meet the Market and Market Mixer: Networking events designed to give students an opportunity to utilize the skills developed in Called to the Bar while connecting with practicing attorneys in advance of the spring recruitment cycle.

The second annual Meet the Market was an exceptional success this past year, bringing together over 200 students and employers outside at Brewer Plaza. Thanks to the participation of our alumni and community supporters, students engaged with attorneys, building their professional network and establishing themselves as members of the legal community. We look forward to hosting this event again.

Fall and spring on-campus interviews (OCIs) were similarly successful, with over 100 employers interviewing students for summer and post-graduate full-time positions. The CDO recently completed fall OCIs and is already preparing for the spring 2024 round.

Concluding the academic year on a high note, the CDO reported record employment rates for the class of 2022. According to the official American Bar Association employment report, 94.96% of the class of 2022 was employed 10 months after graduation. This accomplishment is the result of the class of 2022's determination and resiliency, coupled with the support of Cumberland alumni, faculty and staff.

As always, the CDO is grateful for the vast community of alumni who share their time, resources and expertise with our students. We appreciate your ongoing support and look forward to a great 2023-24 school year.



Scan the QR code to learn more about and connect with the the Career Development Office.

ACADEMIC AND BAR SUCCESS

In the Academic and Bar Success program, assistant

dean Lynn Hogewood '93, J.D. '03, addresses student success with their strengths and weaknesses in mind. Through this holistic approach, Hogewood offers one-on-one educational counseling as well as provides external and

internal resources to meet the needs of

each student. Programming includes academic mentors for first-year students, weekly Wellness Wednesdays, the Winding Road series, weekly support for students of all types, selection of targeted self-assessing strategies for deep learning, and a commitment to diversity and belonging that enhances learning success—all with an emphasis on the prongs of lawyer well-being as defined by the American Bar Association (ABA).

The academic success advisers hold group study halls as well as individual tutoring sessions for specific subjects. Plus, under Hogewood's guidance, these advisers host workshops for learning and study strategies and highlight the resources that support deep learning. In conjunction with Department of Student Services and the student-led organizations, Wellness Wednesdays offer a weekly pause for law students to focus on an area of well-being to help minimize burnout and to help foster community and wellness. Hogewood offers the Winding Road series to introduce incoming first-year students to strategies for preparing for class, listening well and taking notes effectively in class, reviewing after class, and managing time and resources through the first semester of law school. She also teaches a course to third-year students that threads together the foundations of the first-year courses and Constitutional Law that provides additional preparation for the bar exam. In addition, Hogewood meets one-on-one with students to develop personal strategies for deep learning while offering resources for self-assessment to larger groups of students through essay exam review and multi-state bar exam (MBE)-style questions. Understanding that long-term learning and success start with a sense of belonging and community in learning from one another, the Academic and Bar Success program offers opportunities for students to engage with one another socially and academically.

New to the Academic and Bar Success Program

Academic Success Advisers

Wellness Wednesday

Winding Road Series

American Law Practice and Procedure

The ABA ultimate bar passage rate for the class of 2020 placing the school 31st in the nation among all ABA-

approved law schools.

$Class\ Notes\ /\!/$ collected from July 2022 through June 2023

1969_

Henry Ray is the 56th annual Beaux Arts Krewe Ball king.

1971

Jimmy Rane was inducted into the Dothan, Alabama, Business Hall of Fame in April.

1972

Stan Starnes was confirmed by the Alabama Senate as a member of the University of Alabama Board of Trustees.

1973

Justice Mike Bolin received the Alabama Farmers Federation Cultivator Award during the organization's 101st annual meeting in Montgomery on Dec. 5, 2022. He retired from the Supreme Court of Alabama in Jan. 2023 and was Cumberland School of Law's spring commencement speaker on April 29, 2023.

1975_

Joe Ritch joined the board of directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority after being nominated by President Biden in 2022. As well, Ritch serves as chairman of the Redstone Regional Alliance, and practices law with Denton's Sirote in Huntsville, Alabama.

1976_

Honorable Holmes Whiddon retired from the bench after serving as presiding judge of Mobile Municipal Court in Mobile, Alabama, for 16 years.

Jimmy Walsh added his name to the Alabama State Court Media Roster as a certified court mediator.

Wayne Morse was elected to become a fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers.

1978_

David Drabkin is a fellow at the American Bar Association and chairman of Procurement Roundtable in Washington, D.C.

Tommy Spina was appointed to the Birmingham Airport Authority board of directors.

1979_

Steve Wilson received the Walter Gilbert Award from Auburn University.

1980 _

Claude Rhea is the music minister at Raleigh Avenue Baptist Church in Homewood, Alabama, and he retired from Samford University in 2023.

Wilson Myers is a public defender for the Ute Indian Tribe Uintah and Ouray Reservation in Fort Duchesne, Utah.

1981

Clark Watson retired after serving as Samford University's general counsel since 2015.

James Ingram is chief counsel and assistant director for program support of the Asset Forfeiture Management Staff (AFMS) in the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

1982

Phil Noblett was appointed city attorney in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

1983_

Forrest Latta, a member of Troy University's Board of Trustees, delivered the keynote address for the university's Honors Convocation in April and became the president of the Mobile Bar Association.

George Barnhill retired after 39 years as a felony prosecutor for the six-county Waycross Judicial Circuit. Barnhill is the longest serving felony prosecutor and handled more felony case files than any other prosecutor in the history of the Waycross Judicial Circuit.

Judge Jim Gass was elected to be treasurer of the Tennessee Judicial Conference.

Toby Mendelson joined the faculty of the University of Missouri College of Agriculture Food and Natural Resources Division of Applied Social Sciences.

1984

James C. Turk Jr. was appointed to the Radford University Board of Visitors.

Judge Lang Floyd was presented with the 2022 Commissioners Award at the 145th Annual Meeting of the Alabama State Bar on June 25, 2022.

Scott Donaldson has joined Rosen Harwood in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

1985_

Judge Gregory Poole is the new chief judge of the Cobb County Superior Court in Georgia.

1986_

Davis Malone was confirmed by the Alabama Senate as a member of the University of Alabama Board of Trustees.

1987

Dale Delaney is senior supervising attorney at Bain & Barkley in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Doug Dooley has been elected a fellow of the Tennessee Bar Foundation in Nashville, Tennessee.

Ted Leopold of Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC was invited to join the International Academy of Trial Lawyers Fellowship program.

1988

Ed Merrigan was promoted to the rank of Major General in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Honorable Julia "Julie" Weller is general counsel and human resources director for Partners in Pediatrics in Montgomery, Alabama.

1989

Ike Gulas was elected president, board of directors of AHEPA National Housing Corporation (ANHC), the parent company of AHEPA Affordable Housing Management Company (AMC).

1990 __

A. David Fawal was elected to the 2023 Executive Committee Place 3 of the Birmingham Bar Association.

Congressman Robert Aderholt was reelected to the U.S. House of Representatives to represent Alabama's 4th Congressional District.

Honorable Ruth Ann Hall, 23rd Judicial Circuit of Alabama, has been selected as the 2022 Alumni of Achievement award winner for the University of Alabama in Huntsville's College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences.

Sharon Donaldson Stuart was elected as the 2023 president-elect of the Birmingham Bar Association.

Steven Moore was selected to be deputy assistant district attorney for Hamilton County, Tennessee.

Stewart Springer co-founded Springer Romeo & Krayer in Birmingham, Alabama.

1991_

Judge John D. McAfee was reelected as circuit court judge of the Eighth Judicial District of Tennessee in Tazewell, Tennessee.

Mark Hull presented at the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War conference in Florence, Italy, on the topic of extremism in the military. Also, he is an elected fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and more recently became a fellow of the Royal Society for Art.

Mary Abbott Harkins was named senior vice president at Truist Bank and compliance director in the Risk Management Organization in Birmingham, Alabama.

1992

Melissa Montgomery is director of contracts for General Dynamic - OTS in Huntsville, Alabama.

1993

David Weilbaecher Jr. is an assistant district attorney at the 34th JDC Office of the District Attorney in Chalmette, Louisiana.

1994

Angela (Ane) Redmond Debro is associate general

counsel of athletics at the University of Mississippi in Oxford. Mississippi.

Frederic "Ric" Ransom was appointed chief executive officer of MU Health Care at the University of Missouri.

Jason Odom was sworn in as a municipal judge in Jacksonville, Alabama.

Judge Jim Roberts was awarded the Cornerstone Award at the Educating Advocacy Teaching Conference.

Judge Kelly J. McKibben was honored with the Distinguished Judicial Service Award from Brevard County Legal Aid. The award was presented by the Florida 18th Judicial Circuit chief judge Jessica Recksiedler at the annual Pro Bono Awards and Recognition Gala.

Mary Margaret Bailey is treasurer of the Mobile Bar Association for 2023.

Michael B. Odom is a partner of Phelps Dunbar in Birmingham, Alabama.

Mike Catalano joined as counsel at Baker Donelson in Birmingham, Alabama.

Stephen Glenn qualified as a Boeing 777 captain for FedEx Express in Memphis, Tennessee.

1995

Anthony Perrone authored an article, "An Eternal Conversation," published in the June 14th issue of *Catholic Journal*.

Bentley Patrick is senior trial attorney for Nationwide in Birmingham. Alabama.

Brian Turner joined Gregory Fann Turner in Birmingham, Alabama.

Richard Nickels is a partner at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP in Nashville, Tennessee.

Robert "Bob" Boland of Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick LLP is the 2023 Law360 Distinguished Legal Writing award winner. Also, he joined the faculty of Seton Hall University School of Law.

Sidney Welch is a partner in the health care practice group at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP in Atlanta, Georgia.

1996

Andy Wattleworth is associate general counsel at GXO Logistics in High Point, North Carolina.

Jeff Tickal was sworn in as circuit judge for Alabama's 37th Judicial Circuit.

John Flynt was appointed by Mississippi Governor Reeves as commissioner for Mississippi to the Uniform Law Commission.

1997

Helen Ruth "HR" Harwell received SCORE Charlotte's highest honor, the 2023 Dick O'Brien Award, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Jennifer B. Compton was named the first female chair of Shumaker Loop & Kendrick LLP. This is the first time in the firm's nearly 100-year history that a female has been selected as chair. Compton is also the managing partner of the firm's Sarasota, Florida, office.

K. Kaylin Render received the 2022 YWCA Tribute to Women Award recipient in the "Empower" category, for her work with domestic violence victims in Sullivan County, Tennessee.

1998

Casey Duncan is a district judge in the 18th Judicial Circuit in Shelby County, Alabama.

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \pmb{Celeste Larson} is a litigation attorney with Morgan \& \\ Morgan in Birmingham, Alabama. \end{tabular}$

Jacob Brown was invested to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court. He sits in Jacksonville, Florida.

Jeff Pomeroy is a shareholder and vice chair of the real estate group at Baker Donelson in Birmingham, Alabama.

Lana Olson is president of DRI. With more than 16,000 members, DRI is the largest international membership organization of attorneys defending the interests of businesses and individuals in civil litigation.

Noelle Fleming Collins is vice president, compliance, for Louisiana Healthcare Connections in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

1999_

Chris Cohron is the circuit court judge for the First Division of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Chris Dunnagan is an assistant district attorney in Onslow County, North Carolina.

Robert Wick was awarded by the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance (SCMA) the Legal and Policy Professional of the Year for his work as general counsel and secretary of the Schaeffler Group USA Inc. in Fort Mill, South Carolina, and for his significant contributions to the broader community.

2000_

Brooke Chastain Juan is a partner of LaCava, Jacobson & Goodis in Tampa, Florida.

Christine Davis Moser was promoted to supervising senior staff attorney for the 18th Judicial Circuit Court.

Demetra Liggins was recognized as a Diversity and Inclusion Champion by Texas Lawyer in Texas Legal

John Howard joined as counsel at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP in Huntsville, Alabama.

Khristi Doss Driver was appointed to the Hoover, Alabama, City Council.

Marc Jaskolka is a shareholder at Gaines Gault Hendrix PC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Nicole Rocco is treasurer for the board of the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County.

Robert Maddox of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP has been elected as a fellow of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers and of the American Bar Foundation.

Ryan Cochran joined Epstein Becker Green in Nashville, Tennessee.

Tommy Treadwell is the general counsel and chief compliance officer at Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama LLC in Montgomery, Alabama.

Virginia Miller was elected to the 2023 Executive Committee Place 3 of the Birmingham Bar Association.

2001

Amy Nelson co-founded DLB Attorneys at Law in Birmingham, Alabama.

Champ Crocker was elected district attorney of Alabama's 32nd Judicial Circuit (Cullman County) on Nov. 8, 2022. He assumed the office on Jan. 16, 2023.

Erik Heninger is president of the Alabama Association for Justice.

Fred DeLeon has joined DSLD Land Management as vice president of engineering in Birmingham, Alabama.

Honorable K.C. Hairston was elected president of the Alabama Municipal Judges Association. As well, Hairston serves as the municipal judge for the village of Mountain Brook, Alabama, and is a partner of Balch & Bingham in Birmingham, Alabama.

Jack Campbell was appointed by the Florida
Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Secretary Eric Hall
to the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention State
Advisory Group.

Jason Byrd joined the corporate and business transactions practice group as an of counsel attorney at Spencer Fane Bone McAllester in Nashville, Tennessee.

2002

Michelle Clemons Richard is vice president of global human resources for Astreya in Atlanta, Georgia.

Robin Beardsley Mark is a partner of Burr & Forman in Birmingham, Alabama.

Vincent Swiney joined Pope, McMeekin & Wood PC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Woody Hartzog is a professor of law at Boston University School of Law.

2003_

Graham Pulvere joined Wilson Elser as a partner in Birmingham, Alabama.

Jason Trippe is senior commercial counsel for Fisker Inc. in Montgomery, Alabama.

${\bf Class\ Notes}\ /\!/\ {\it collected\ from\ july\ 2022\ through\ june\ 2023}$

John Browning IV is vice president and general counsel for Rapid Deployment in Mobile, Alabama.

Judge Bill W. Lewis Jr. has been appointed to the University of South Alabama board of trustees by Alabama Governor Kay Ivey.

Lynn Hogewood is the assistant dean of academic and bar success at Cumberland School of Law.

2004_

Brian Kilgore is the city attorney for Madison, Alabama. Charlotte Brewer-Cooper is of counsel at AdamsIP LLC in Mobile, Alabama.

John Strohm is a partner of Frost Brown Todd in Nashville. Tennessee.

Josh Bell is director of industry solutions at Document Crunch in Birmingham, Alabama.

Megan England joined Horton, Ballard & Pemerton in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Ricardo Woods is serving on the board of directors for DRI.

Shelley Lewis is a shareholder at Gaines Gault Hendrix PC in Huntsville, Alabama.

Tony Greer is a member of Dickenson Wright in Nashville, Tennessee.

2005_

Andy Pascual has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Georgia Army National Guard where he is the command judge advocate for the 201st Regional Support Group.

Bill Averett has been named of counsel with Dentons Sirote's landlord's rights practice in Birmingham, Alabama.

Joe Carlisle is of counsel with Dunn Carney in Lake Oswego, Oregon.

L. Simone Washington is the chief diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging officer for the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund in New York, New York.

Laura Perez is of counsel with Morris, Manning & Martin in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mitchell Mataya is commissioner of the Alabama Surface Mining Commission. He remains an attorney for Vulcan Materials Company.

2006

Jim Exum has earned his listing as a Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 31 General Civil Mediator for the Chattanooga law firm of Chambliss, Bahner & Stophel PC.

Joe Underwood is senior legal counsel for the Commonwealth of Virginia, Division of Legislative Services, in Richmond, Virginia.

Lindsay Hembree Barnes is corporate counsel with Kemper in Vestavia, Alabama.

Sara Williams received the Marie Lambert Award from the American Association for Justice (AAJ) Women Trial Lawyers Caucus. The Marie Lambert Award is presented annually to one female lawyer in the United States in recognition of exemplary leadership to her profession, her community, the AAJ and the Women Trial Lawyers Caucus.

Will Spicer is assistant general counsel for the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

2007

Adrianne Thompson is of counsel with Dentons Sirote in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Andrea Weed Dorgan is a partner of Burr & Forman in Birmingham, Alabama.

Bill Jones was elected general sessions judge for Campbell County, Tennessee, in the August 2022 election. Judge Jones had served as an assistant public defender for 14 years.

Coby Kutcher is vice president of sustainability at Protective Life in Birmingham, Alabama.

Heath Loftin is a senior attorney at McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce LLC.

Justin Hale is general counsel and executive engagement director at The Parnassus Group.

Keith Blackwood was elected to be the district attorney for Mobile County District Attorney's Office in Mobile, Alabama.

Kelli Byers Hooper is an attorney manager with Thomas J. Henry Law Firm in San Antonio, Texas.

Lacey Daughdrill Smith is an attorney with Tobias & Comer in Mobile, Alabama.

Lindsay Sisco is regional counsel for the Tennessee Department of Transportation in Franklin, Tennessee.

Mary Blanche Neese Hankey is chief of staff for Alabama Senator Tommy Tuberville.

Randall Woodfin, mayor of Birmingham, Alabama, was appointed by President Joe Biden to serve on the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and was appointed to the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, Affordable Housing Advisory Council. Also, Mayor Woodfin delivered the keynote address for Voorhees University's commencement in Denmark, South Carolina.

Stephanie Mays is a member of the board of directors of Prosper, a coalition of community, civic and business leaders committed to creating a more vibrant, racially and gender inclusive economy based in Birmingham, Alabama.

Tyrus Sturgis has been named chief officer of engagement at The Heritage Foundation of Williamson County.

2008_

Brian Malcom is a shareholder in the financial services litigation and compliance group at Baker Donelson in Birmingham, Alabama.

David Sawyer is insurance counsel for DPR Construction in Atlanta, Georgia.

Griffin Bridgers founded two new businesses, Bridgers Wealth Strategies LLC in Denver, Colorado, and Bridgers Estate Planning Media. As well, he remains of counsel with Hutchins & Associates LLC in Denver, Colorado.

Hayes Arendall is a partner at Compton Jones Dresher LLP in Birmingham, Alabama.

Jason Bobo is system counsel, Office of Counsel, University of Alabama System in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Luisa Kay Reyes, an attorney at the Department of Labor's division of Hearings and Appeals, published the "Hard-Scrabble Singings" story in the May 2023 issue of *Pure in Heart* magazine.

Patrick Bobo is chief legal officer for U.S. Multimodal Group in Denver, Colorado.

Preston Neel is a partner of Dentons Sirote in Birmingham, Alabama.

Rebecca Lee is with The Harris Firm in Huntsville, Alabama.

Rhett Owens is co-founder of Bodewell Legal Group in Birmingham, Alabama.

Tondra Moore, Prairie View A&M University executive director of Health Services, has been elected to serve as chair of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Coalition – American College Health Association for 2022-23

2009

Jessica Joyce Thomas is vice president and associate general counsel for Wellpath.

Justin Owen is a co-founder of Bodewell Legal Group in Birmingham, Alabama.

Ladd Davis is a co-founder of DLB Attorneys at Law in Birmingham, Alabama.

Larry Young is technology counsel for Chick-fil-A in Atlanta, Georgia.

Megan Stephens is senior counsel for PNC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Michael Carr is of counsel at Johnson, Paseur & Medley LLC in Florence, Alabama.

Summer McWhorter Summerford was sworn in as District Attorney in the 9th Judicial Circuit, covering Alabama's DeKalb and Cherokee counties.

2010 _

Alex Ealy is risk management legal counsel for Children's of Alabama in Birmingham, Alabama.

Amanda Senn is the director of the Alabama Securities Commission in Montgomery, Alabama.

Andrew Brashier edited for publication, *Bishop John Jewel's Two Treatises on Scriptures and Sacraments*, available on Amazon.

Ashley Peinhardt was elected 2023 secretary/ treasurer of the Birmingham Bar Association.

Brian Smithweck is assistant treasurer of the Mobile Bar Association for 2023.

Brittany Adkins Schaffer has been named dean of Belmont University's Mike Curb College of Entertainment and Music Business. Schaffer was also named to 2023 MusicRow's Rising Women in Nashville, Tennessee.

Chris Reid is a radio talk show host at The Daily Controversy with Christopher Reid on 103.9 FM in Huntsville, Alabama.

John Coke is general counsel for the Tennessee Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts, in Nashville, Tennessee.

Kathryn Varner Davis is a trust administrator with Regions Bank in Huntsville, Alabama.

Madeline Krontiras Bader is a partner of Coulter & Sierra in Atlanta, Georgia.

Menyian Woodall is patient safety manager for Emory Healthcare in Atlanta, Georgia.

Rebecca Chambliss is a partner of Freeman Lovell working from Montgomery, Alabama.

Staci Pierce is a member of the board of directors of Prosper, a coalition of community, civic and business leaders committed to creating a more vibrant, racially and gender inclusive economy based in Birmingham, Alabama.

2011

Eddie Kiessling is of counsel with Patterson + Sheridan in Huntsville, Alabama.

Jessica Davis King is a partner of Tilley Deems & Trotter in Cartersville, Georgia.

Joshua Reif is a shareholder at Polsinelli PC in Atlanta, Georgia.

Kendra Apple Birtsch is a partner of Peterson White in Knoxville. Tennessee.

Martin Drake is senior director, complex claims – legal, for Aspirion in Columbus, Georgia.

Meredith McIver is a partner of Osborne, Helman, Scott, Knisely & Stanton in Austin, Texas.

Troupe Brewer is a shareholder of Clark Partington in Pensacola, Florida.

2012

April Hare DeLuca, a founding partner of Magic City Law, is the 2023 president of the Hoover Area Chamber of Commerce in Hoover, Alabama.

Craig Lawrence Jr. is chief operating officer and general counsel for Spectra Capital in Atlanta, Georgia.

Gerri Huskins Plain is a senior trial attorney with Nationwide Insurance – Trial Division in Huntsville, Alabama.

Jeremy Richter is co-host of a new podcast called The Write Approach.

Katie Kimbrell, partner in Balch & Bingham LLP's Birmingham office and member of the firm's corporate and commercial practice, will chair Balch's Women's Initiative.

Lanice Turrens Smolar is an associate with Kelley Kronenburg in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Lisa Hale is national director of compliance and privacy for Enhabit Home Health and Hospice, formerly Encompass Health, in Birmingham, Alabama.

Michael Guarino is an attorney at Bressler, Amery & Ross PC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Paige Yarbrough is a career counselor at Cumberland School of Law.

Ryan Richardson has joined the law firm Davis Wright Tremaine as a partner in New York City.

Sam Burnett is of product litigation counsel in the Office of the General Counsel at Ford Motor Company in Concord, California.

2013

Allison Sidbury is senior corporate counsel of ethics and compliance for Delta Airlines in Atlanta, Georgia.

Ashley Heidger Meskill is an assistant attorney general for the State of Connecticut.

Blake Hungerford is a partner of Gregory, Doyle, Calhoun & Rogers LLC in Atlanta, Georgia.

Cline Thompson is assistant general manager, Business Operations and Legal, for the New Orleans Pelicans.

Danny Patterson is a senior associate of Squire Patton Boggs in Atlanta, Georgia.

Haley Colson Lewis is a staff attorney for Environmental Integrity Project in Birmingham, Alabama.

Jaclyn A. Gilbert is an underwriting counsel with Title Resources Group in San Antonio. Texas.

Jennifer Bray was sworn in as the Marshall County district attorney in January.

Jerrika Jones is founder of Providence Law Group in Huntsville, Alabama.

Joanna Hair is an attorney with Morgan & Morgan in Atlanta, Georgia.

Lance Parmer is serving on the board of directors of Girls Inc. of Central Alabama.

Mike Yaworsky has been nominated by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis as commissioner of the Office of Insurance Regulation.

Rory McKean is of transactional and regulatory counsel at Educational Media Foundation K-LOVE & Air1 Media Networks in Franklin, Tennessee.

Sam Stephens is counsel for Protective Life in Birmingham, Alabama.

Veronica Crenshaw is a temporary senior manager with TNTP in Atlanta, Georgia.

2014

Alex McFall is of senior counsel in the financial services and capital markets practice group at Husch Blackwell in the firm's virtual Link office.

Alexis Mays is director at Emmanuel Sheppard & Condon in Pensacola, Florida.

Allen Blow is a shareholder of Baker Donelson in Birmingham, Alabama.

Aly George is a staff attorney with the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals.

Andrew Coyle joined the office of the Hamilton County District Attorney General in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Andrew Hill is senior director of APD Compliance at Protective Life in Birmingham, Alabama.

April Jackson MacLennan is board vice-chair of the Greater Birmingham Arts Education Collaborative.

Ben Odendahl is senior counsel with Smith Dawson & Andrews in Washington, D.C.

Carl Williams is a partner at Hall Booth Smith PC.

Chris Friedman is a partner in the financial services and capital markets practice group at Husch Blackwell in the firm's virtual Link office.

DeWitt Duncan Clark was selected as special magistrate for the Escambia County Environmental Code Enforcement Division in Pensacola, Florida.

Hutch McCollum is real estate manager for The Honey Baked Ham Company in Alpharetta, Georgia.

Jay Friedman is a partner at Friedman, Dazzio & Zulanas PC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Jon Mills is a shareholder of Maynard Nexsen in Birmingham, Alabama.

Madalyn Miller Davis is an associate in the estate planning practice at Adams and Reese in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mitch Relfe is government affairs principal for Cigna in Washington, D.C.

P. Andrew Coyle is an associate with Patrick, Beard, Schulman & Jacoway in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Preston Miller is an assistant city attorney for City of Birmingham, Alabama.

Ricky Coates is a senior attorney with EnableComp in Augusta, Georgia.

Steven Strother is a shareholder of Maynard Nexsen in Birmingham, Alabama.

Theresa Johnston Friedman is a co-founder of DLB Attorneys at Law in Birmingham. Alabama.

Class Notes // Collected from July 2022 through June 2023

2015

Cynthia Upton is senior grants and contracts manager for the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Jessica Spade is corporate counsel at Cummins Filtration in Birmingham, Alabama.

Katy Reed is associate administrator with Encompass Health in Birmingham, Alabama.

Krista Cowley is assistant chief financial officer for the Kodiak Island Borough School District.

Lauren Miles is a principal of Beasley Allen in Montgomery, Alabama.

Marshall Yates is counsel at the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., and is the executive director of Election Integrity Network in Washington, D.C.

Nick Leslie founded Nick Leslie Law LLC in Simpsonville, South Carolina.

Robert J. "Jay" Sewell is an attorney at Wilson Elser in Birmingham, Alabama.

Samuel Pierce is associate general counsel for CLMBR in Denver. Colorado.

Sarah Sutton Osborne is a partner of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP in Huntsville, Alabama.

2016 _

Alan Moore is assistant general counsel for privacy and data protection at S&P Global. Also, Moore obtained the certification of privacy law specialist from the International Association of Privacy Professionals.

Anna Schmarkey Cobb is an assistant director, consulting, for Principal Financial Group in Birmingham, Alabama.

Bret Thompson is an attorney at Maynard Nexsen in Birmingham, Alabama.

Brian D. Hayes received the Mediator Award during the 2022 Alabama State Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program Pro Bono Awards.

Chase Eley is a shareholder of Webster Henry in Birmingham, Alabama.

Cydney Barnes joined Swift Currie in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dhvanil Zaveri is an associate with Lloyd Gray Whitehead & Monroe in Birmingham, Alabama.

Dylan Angeline was the medical program director for The World Games 2022 in Birmingham, Alabama.

Hastiya Smith is an attorney at Labcorp in San Diego, California.

Priyanka Patel Zaveri is an associate at Christian & Small in Birmingham, Alabama.

Rachel Pitts is an associate with Lewis Brisbois in Jackson, Mississippi.

Walker Beauchamp is associate general counsel at Hoar Construction in Birmingham, Alabama.

2017_

Adam Hoekenschnieder is a partner of Brodowski, McCurry, Maynor, Miller & Hoekenschnieder in Huntsville. Alabama.

Andrew McCarley is legal affairs officer at Continental Aerospace Technologies in Mobile, Alabama.

Bianca Svensson is a partner of Martenson Hasbrouck & Simon in Atlanta, Georgia.

Chris Clark is vice president of risk management and diversity and inclusion at Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Alabama.

Elizabeth Ann Naro is the director counsel of retail strategies at Target in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Hunter Garnett announced the opening of Garnett Patterson Injury Lawyers LLC in Huntsville, Alabama.

Kyle Weaver is a shareholder of Carr Allison in Tallahassee, Florida, and is a member of the Board of Directors for the Florida Trucking Association.

Lindsey Voelker Davis joined Charlotte Christian Law in Birmingham, Alabama.

Mary-Thomas Hart is chief counsel for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association in Washington, D.C.

Miya Moore is founder and chief executive officer of Benchek, a startup designed to revolutionize how nonprofits handle financial need assessments, in Rirmingham Alabama

Scott Woodard is an associate with Lanier, Ford, Shaver & Pavne in Huntsville, Alabama.

Steven Boydstun is director of legal affairs and risk management at the University of Montevallo.

Trey Perdue was selected to serve on the DRI Young Lawyers Steering Committee for 2022-23 and will serve as vice chair of the Networking and Activities Subcommittee. As well, he was elected 2023 president elect of the Young Lawyers Section Executive Committee of the Birmingham Bar Association.

2018_

Alexis Esneault is principal contracts administrator for Beyond Gravity in Huntsville, Alabama, and was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of the AlabamaGermany Partnership.

Allyson Swecker is an associate with Maloney Lauersdorf Reiner in Portland, Oregon.

Ben Keen was selected to participate in the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association LEAD (Leadership, Education & Advanced Direction) class

Carmen Weite was appointed vice president of public service of the Birmingham Bar Association.

Chelsea Brewton is a compliance consultant with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama in Birmingham, Alabama.

David Wisdom is an attorney at Gilpin Givhan PC in Montgomery, Alabama.

Jackson Young is legal and compliance specialist of Marsh & McLennan Agency in Johns Creek, Georgia.

Jamillah Pritchett has been selected to participate in the Leadership Council for Legal Diversity's Pathfinder program

Katie Flanagan is a contracts attorney for Snowflake – the Data Cloud Platform in Atlanta, Georgia.

Sean Herald is a partner of Gray, Rust, St. Amand, Moffett & Brieske LLP in Atlanta, Georgia.

2019

Allison Moody is an associate at Johnston, Moore & Weston in Huntsville, Alabama.

Anthony Anello is an associate at Watkins & Eager PLLC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Austin Russell is a trial attorney with the EEOC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Brooke DiSalvo is vice president of the Escambia – Santa Rosa Bar Association (Alabama) Young Lawyers Division.

Callie Brister is an associate attorney at Turnbull, Holcomb & LeMoine PC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Denzel Okinedo was elected 2023 secretary/treasurer of the Young Lawyers Section of the Birmingham Bar Association and is a member of Rotaract of Birmingham, 2022-23 Leadership Development Program.

Emily Hopper is an associate at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP in Birmingham, Alabama.

M. Denzell Moton founded his firm, Moton Legal Group, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mackenzie Luce is an associate at Bourland, Wall & Wenzel in Fort Worth, Texas.

Nelson Johnson, an attorney with The Slocumb Law Firm in Birmingham, Alabama, became certified as a referee in the U.S. Soccer Federation. As well, he coaches a competitive team in the Arab Uknighted Soccer Club, in which he also serves as a founding board member.

Stephen Woodall is an associate attorney for the Colorado State Public Defender in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Tiffany Ann Jones received a Leader in the Law award from the Florida Association for Women Lawyers and received the Clarence T. Johnson Jr. Member of the Year Award by the Vassar B. Carlton American Inn of Court in Melbourne. Florida.

W. McClendon (Mac) Lanier joined the senior management team of Brad Lanier Oil Co. Inc. in Albany, Georgia.

Whitney Eiland is the founder of Eiland Law in Hayden, Alabama.

2020

Andrew Edge is an associate at Martenson, Hasbrouck & Simon in Atlanta, Georgia.

Anna Dennis is an associate at Wilson Elser in Birmingham, Alabama.

Brooke Messina has joined Butler Snow's tort, transportation and specialized litigation group in Birmingham, Alabama.

Catherine Collins Messer is an associate at Christian & Small in Birmingham, Alabama.

Cobb Bostick is an associate at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP in Birmingham, Alabama.

Colin Brennan is an associate at Maune Raichle Hartley French & Mudd in St. Louis, Missouri.

David Glenn is a member of the Trussville Rotary Davbreak Club.

Gavin King was elected vice president of the Capital City Bar Association in Montgomery, Alabama, and was selected to the National Black Lawyers Top 100 and 40 under 40

Jackson Reagan is an associate at Dentons Sirote in Birmingham, Alabama.

Jillian Zarecor works at Metropolitan Escrow, Inc. in Tullahoma, Tennessee.

Jonathan Plott earned his LL.M. in tax from Georgetown University Law Center and is an associate with Burr & Forman in Birmingham, Alabama.

Katie Chomin is co-chair of the Orange County, Florida, Bar Association Insurance Committee.

Kim Massey is an associate with Freese & Goss in Birmingham, Alabama.

Marshall Ghee joined the law firm of Ghee, Draper & Alexander in Anniston, Alabama.

Morgan Turner is an associate of Huie, Fernambucq & Stewart in Birmingham, Alabama.

Nicole Ramos Jones is an associate with Burg Wynn in Panama City Beach, Florida.

Nolan Clark is an associate with Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP in Birmingham, Alabama.

Sarah Tindle Telofski is deputy general counsel for the Office of the Governor of Alabama.

Tucker Martin is of associate counsel at EBSCO Industries in Birmingham, Alabama.

Whitney Lott is an associate with Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP in Huntsville, Alabama.

2021 _

Brock Hendon received his LL.M. in Taxation from Georgetown University Law Center in May 2022 and is an associate attorney at Rushton Stakely in Montgomery, Alabama.

Claire Day is an associate at Gilmore, Rowley, Crissey & Wilson in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Courtney Howard is a senior contracts consultant at Oracle in San Antonio, Texas.

Dana Oglesby is 1st Lt. USAF, active duty as an assistant military justice attorney, stationed at Beale Air Force Base in California.

Haley Kozuch is associate counsel at WorldLink US in Frisco, Texas.

Jon-Kaden Mullen joined Louisiana-based McGlinchey Stafford in Birmingham, Alabama.

Julia Simmons is an associate with Crittenden Partners in Birmingham, Alabama.

Lauren Huston is an associate at Burgess & Roberts in Birmingham, Alabama.

Madison Cumby started as a closing attorney at Newtek Bank N.A. in Birmingham, Alabama.

Madison Vacarella is an associate at Miller, Christie & Kinney PC in Birmingham, Alabama.

McKenzie Meade is an associate at Lehr Middlebrooks Vreeland & Thompson in Birmingham, Alabama.

Mitchell Surface is an associate of Maynard Nexsen in Birmingham, Alabama.

Nick Caruso is in house counsel with Atlanticus Holdings Corporation in Atlanta, Georgia.

Nicole LeMier is an associate at Alabama Personal Injury Lawyers LLC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Paul Sparkman is an associate with Lloyd Gray Whitehead & Monroe in Birmingham, Alabama.

Sarah Rawls is a member of Rotaract of Birmingham's 2022-23 Leadership Development Program.

Taylor Johnson is a litigation associate at Phelps Dunbar LLP in Birmingham, Alabama.

Willie E. Scott is an associate at DiCello Levitt in Birmingham, Alabama.

2022

Adam Derrick is an associate at Morris, Andrews, Talmadge & Driggers LLC in Dothan, Alabama.

Adil Khoso is a staff attorney for the Honorable Terry Moore, Alabama Court of Civil Appeals, in Montgomery, Alabama.

Amanda Nelson Singh is an associate at Phelps Dunbar in Birmingham, Alabama.

Anna Alyce Eastburn is an associate with Clark, May, Price, Lawley, Duncan & Paul in Birmingham, Alabama.

Bailee Curtis is an associate with Clark, May, Price, Lawley, Duncan & Paul in Birmingham, Alabama.

Blake Head is corporate counsel of Hoar Construction in Birmingham, Alabama.

Brooks Jackson is an associate attorney at Davidson, Davidson, Umbach, and Forbus.

Carly Atkisson is an associate of Huie, Fernambucq & Stewart in Birmingham, Alabama.

Dillon Lloyd Rheuby is an assistant state attorney for Florida's Fourth Judicial Circuit.

Elizabeth Weyerman is an associate at Beasley Allen Law Firm in Montgomery, Alabama.

Francisco Pecci is an associate of Phelps Dunbar in Mobile. Alabama.

Gaby Ruiz is an associate at Christian & Small LLP in Birmingham, Alabama.

Ghada Abouhaidar is a fellow with the University of Alabama System, Office of Counsel, in Birmingham, Alabama

Hannah Black is an associate at Christian & Small in Birmingham, Alabama.

Hannah Cassady is an associate with Dominick Feld Hyde in Birmingham, Alabama.

Isom Carden is an attorney at Butler Snow LLP in Huntsville, Alabama.

Jacob Wade is a contracts and grant administrator II at Auburn University.

Jake Norwood is an associate at Gaines Gault Hendrix PC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Jayme Leadmon is an assistant public defender in the New Mexico Law Offices of the Public Defender in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

John Tully is an associate with Starnes Davis Florie in Birmingham. Alabama.

Jonathan Jenkins is an associate of Maynard Nexsen in Huntsville, Alabama.

Julian Garner is a judicial law clerk for Judge Elisabeth French of the 10th Judicial Circuit in Jefferson County, Alahama

Kate Belyayeva is an associate with Maynard Nexsen in Birmingham, Alabama.

Kaylee Rose is an associate with Maynard Nexsen in Birmingham, Alabama.

Kelsey Virginia Cain is associate compliance officer at Bradford Health Services in Birmingham, Alabama.

Kiana Kennamore is a contracts analyst, subaward coordinator, at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Kristen Gochett is an associate with Maxwell Tillman Trial Lawyers in Birmingham, Alabama.

Kristen Sherwood is an associate with The Sodoma Firm in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Kristen Strickland is an associate with Dority & Manning in Greenville, South Carolina.

${\bf Class\ Notes}\ /\!/\ {\it collected\ from\ july\ 2022\ through\ june\ 2023}$

Lacey Wilson is a case evaluation attorney for Barratt and Farahany in Birmingham. Alabama.

Lorel Cartee Stano is a judicial law clerk with Judge J. Hughey, 10th Judicial Circuit Court, Alabama.

Leslie Minor is an associate at Smith, Spire, Peddy, Hamilton & Coleman PC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Lindsey C. Smith is an associate of Jackson, Fikes & Brakefield in Jasper, Alabama.

Lindsey Yerby is an associate at Balch & Bingham in Birmingham, Alabama.

Logan Bailey is an associate at The Bloomston Firm.

Meagan Corcoran is an associate at Michel King in Birmingham, Alabama.

Megan McDowell is an attorney at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP in Birmingham, Alabama.

Meredith Taylor is a judicial law clerk with the U.S. District Court, Middle District of Alabama.

Michael Miaoulis is an associate at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP in Birmingham, Alabama.

Mickala Lewis is an associate with Leitner Williams Dooley & Napolitano in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Mitchell Brisbon is an associate of Lloyd, Gray, Whitehead & Monroe in Birmingham, Alabama.

Niki Franks is a staff attorney with the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court, Alabama.

Niki Ozburn Buchweitz is an associate at Dentons Sirote in Birmingham, Alabama.

Raygan Kilby is an associate with Taylor and Johns in Harrodsburg, Kentucky.

Robbie Cornell is an associate at Christian & Small LLP in Birmingham, Alabama.

Sara Martin is an associate at Clark Partington in Pensacola, Florida.

Savannah Crigler is an associate at Howard, Kohn, Sprague & FitzGerald, LLP in Hartford, Connecticut.

Tabitha Dailey is an associate at Porterfield Harper Mills Motlow & Ireland in Hoover, Alabama.

Taylor Johnson is an associate at Moore, Ingram, Johnson & Steele in Marietta, Georgia.

Taylor Sims Pecci is an associate of Ball, Ball, Matthews and Novak in Mobile. Alabama.

Tristen Fitz-Gerald is an associate at Porter Porter & Hassinger in Birmingham, Alabama.

Tyler Flowers is an associate at Cunningham Bounds in Mobile, Alabama.

Wade Bramlett is an associate attorney at Mixon Firm LLC.

Will Brown is an associate with Maynard Nexsen in Birmingham, Alabama.

Births/Adoptions

Kyle Pierce '16 and Beth Clayton Pierce welcomed their daughter, Caroline Faye, on June 6, 2022.

Dylan Angeline '16 and Meghan Angeline welcomed their son, John David, on June 9, 2022.

Jonathan (J.B.) Brown '19 and **Candace Towns Brown '18** welcomed their daughter, Reese Bartley, on June 21, 2022.

Samantha Nicolle Burnett '12 and Percy Burnett welcomed their son, Brooks Adrian, on June 23, 2022.

Meg Williamson Clements '12 and Jon Clements welcomed their son, Peyton Case, on June 30, 2022.

Samantha Jolly Naramore '13 and **John Naramore '13** welcomed their son, Scottie Griffin, on July 13, 2022.

Abby Johnston '14 and Neil Johnston welcomed their daughter, Anne Lucille "Cille", on July 19, 2022.

Morgan Price Bailey '18 and **Thomas Bailey '18** welcomed their daughter, Collins Rebecca, on July 25, 2022.

Lynn Pulido Daly '17 and Jared Daly welcomed their son, William "Blake", on July 27, 2022.

Whitney Dyer '16 and Nick Dyer welcomed their daughter, Skye Ashlynn, on Aug. 4, 2022.

Heidi Abbott DiLorenzo '12 and **Joel DiLorenzo '00** welcomed their daughter, Liv Sophia, on Aug. 10, 2022

Nicole Leet '08 welcomed her daughter, Cora Elizabeth, on Aug. 12, 2022.

Ashleigh Hunnicutt Woodham '15 and Matt Woodham '15 welcomed their son, Eli Dean, on Aug. 24, 2022.

Courtney Stevens '19 and Rick Stevens welcomed their son, Clark Ray, on Aug. 25, 2022.

Courtney Bailey Hall '14 and Kevin Hall welcomed their daughter, Annalise Claire, on Sept. 7, 2022.

Megan Murran Rittle '11 and Thomas Rittle welcomed their daughter, Fiona Aurelia, on Sept. 16, 2022.

Weathers Veazey Rollings '16 and Thomas Rollings welcomed their daughter, Veazey Barbara, on Sept. 20, 2022.

Katie Bouldin Perez '11 and Andrew Perez welcomed their daughter, Letty Chandler, on Sept. 21, 2022.

Katie Lynn Tubbs '11 and Fletcher Tubbs welcomed their son, Cooper Gene, on Oct. 3, 2022.

Mallory Bullard Whitley '18 and Ben Whitley welcomed their daughter, Morgan Reese, on Oct. 3, 2022.

April Hare DeLuca '12 and Jason DeLuca welcomed their son, Oliver Grant, on Oct. 11, 2022.

Lindsey Drexler Cochran '16 and Grant Cochran welcomed their daughter, Bradley Frances, on Oct. 24, 2022.

Laura Lundy Wheale '13 and **Patrick John Wheale '13** welcomed their son, Patrick John Wheale Jr., on Nov. 18. 2022.

Willie Scott '21 and Briauna Scott welcomed their daughter, Brinley Shabrail, on Nov. 20, 2022.

Abby Blankenship Pflaum '21 and **Adam Pflaum '22** welcomed their daughter, Elinor Margaret, on Nov. 21, 2022.

Spenser Templeton Moore '15 and Ryan Moore welcomed their daughter, Margot Hope, on Nov. 28, 2022.

Kristin Gray Hanna '11 and Bradley Hanna welcomed their son, Jacob, on Dec. 3, 2022.

Leslee Hungerford '13 and **Blake Hungerford '13** welcomed their son, Benjamin "Yates", on Dec. 6, 2022.

Elizabeth Lyerly Brasher '12 and Dale Brasher welcomed their daughter, Ruth, on Dec. 8, 2022.

Lorel Stano '22 and Chris Stano welcomed their son, Samson Thomas, on Dec. 21, 2022.

Kaylie Eichholt Becker '17 and Garrett Becker welcomed their daughter, Ada Cole, on Dec. 27, 2022.

Kiel Hunter '10 and Joshua Hunter welcomed their daughter, Annie "Wynn", on Dec. 28, 2022.

Mollie Anderson '17 and Daniel Johnston welcomed their son, Daniel Luke, on Dec. 30, 2022.

Demetra Liggins Banks '00 and Torik Banks welcomed their son, Deacon Ivory Bennon, in Jan. 2023.

Allie Segrest Montgomery '19 and Will Montgomery welcomed their son, William Allinder, on Jan. 8, 2023.

Ben Keen '18 and Sarah Keen welcomed their daughter, Aspen Rose, on Jan. 19, 2023.

Sarah Tindle Telofski '20 and Andy Telofski welcomed their son, Andrew James Jr., on Jan. 27, 2022.

Elise Gilbert Mardis '16 and **Zach Mardis '17** welcomed their daughter, Scarlett Rebecca Rose, on Jan. 28, 2023.

Kyle Beckman '11 and Morgan Beckman welcomed their daughter, Alice Lauren, on Jan. 28, 2023.

Brittney Blount Claud '13 and **T.J. Claud '13** welcomed their daughter, Caroline Belle, on Feb. 21, 2023.

Shannon Hardin Dye '10 and **Matthew Dye '10** welcomed their son, Joseph Oliver, on March 13, 2023.

Amanda Graham '15 and Spencer Graham welcomed their daughter, Maxine, on March 17, 2023.

Ruby Villalobos Adams '20 and Irving Adams welcomed their daughter, Myla Esmeralda, on March 20, 2023.

Haley Namie Iverson '15 and **Phoenix Iverson '15** welcomed their daughter, Daphne Hardin, on March 21, 2023.

Submit your news at samford.edu/cumberlandlaw/update-your-info.

Miranda Coley Taylor '17 and Zac Taylor welcomed their son, James Daniel, on April 2, 2023.

Holly Howell Brasher '18 and Daniel Brasher welcomed their daughter, Eleanor "Nellie" Belle, on April 4 2023

Morgan Hoggle '19 and Meagan Self Hoggle welcomed their daughter, Jane Parrish, on April 6, 2023.

Corbin Hershberger '22 and Tyler Finkenthal welcomed their son, Ethan Brooks, on April 9, 2023.

Carami Garrett Dunklin '20 and Darius Dunklin welcomed their son, Callum Cruz, in May 2023.

Rachel Cobble Pitts '16 and Charlie Pitts welcomed their daughter, Sarah Jane, on May 19, 2023.

Laura Guarino Cunliffe '12 and Bill Cunliffe welcomed their daughter, Poppy Elisabeth, on May 25, 2023.

In Memoriam

Chervis Isom '67, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on May 18, 2023.

Robert "Bob" Edward Moorer '67, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on March 31, 2023.

Francis Anthony "Tony" Poggi '69, of Mobile, Alabama, died on Dec. 22, 2022.

Clarence Wayne Beck '69, of Baileyton, Alabama, and Milton, Florida, died on Sept. 11, 2022.

J. Mike Carter '70, of Crawfordsville, Florida, died on Nov. 16, 2022.

Philip Anderson '71, of The Villages, Florida, died on July 28, 2022.

Shirley McCarty '72, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on Jan. 1, 2023.

Frederick George Sundheim Jr. '72, of Stuart, Florida, died on April 4, 2023.

Jerome "Jack" Tucker '72, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on Jan. 16, 2023.

Judge William Hasty Jr. '72, of Georgetown, Georgia, and Vestavia Hills, Alabama, died on Oct. 16, 2022.

George Hugh Jones '74, of Montevallo, Alabama, died on July 2, 2022.

Archie C. "Alec" Jones Jr. '74, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on April 23, 2023.

Steve Arnold '74, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on May 26, 2023.

Fred McLean '74, of Paris, Tennessee, died on July 16, 2022.

C. Nelson Arnold '75, of Knoxville, Tennessee, died on April 15, 2023.

Betsy Sue Scott '76, of Belle Harbor, New York, and Great Falls, Virginia, died on Oct. 25, 2022.

Edward Patrick Moores '78, of Lexington, Kentucky, died on Oct. 17, 2022.

John Andrew Neal '80, of Austin, Texas, died on Feb. 10, 2023

Judge John Everett Williams '81, of Huntingdon, Tennessee, died on Sept. 2, 2022.

Blanchard McLeod Jr. '81, of Selma, Alabama, died on May 23, 2022.

Fred Tyson '82, of Montgomery, Alabama, died on June 7. 2022.

Thomas Neil "Tom" Osborne '85, of Pearisburg, Virginia, died on March 3, 2023.

David W. Abercrombie II '89, of Kissimmee, Florida, died on April 30, 2023.

Cathy Haden '89, of Plano, Texas, died in Aug. 2022.

William D. Tucker '90, of Palm City, Florida, died on April 8, 2022.

Michael David Kellum '91, of Johnson City, Tennessee, died on April 6, 2023.

David Shannon Randle '91, of Augusta, Georgia, and Charlottesville, Virginia, died on Aug. 31, 2022.

Karen Marie Walker '93, of Orlando, Florida, died on Dec. 8, 2022.

Judge Anne Lamkin Durward '95, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on May 27, 2023.

Judge James Patterson '01, of Mobile, Alabama, died on Jan. 10, 2023.

Michael C. Barnett '11, of Dallas, Texas, died on Feb. 13, 2023

Emily Zupanick '16, of Beckley, West Virginia, died on Sept. 16, 2022.

Professor Emeritus Frank Donaldson, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on June 2, 2022.

Marriages

Lisa Bailey '16 married Jimmy German on June 11, 2022

Carami Garrett '20 married Darius Dunklin on Aug. 27, 2022.

Maggie Coan '20 married Patrick Witt on Oct. 8, 2022.

Alisha Everette '19 married Patrick Walsh on Oct. 22, 2022.

Kevin Bufford '17 married Valerie Odet on Oct. 22, 2022.

Avery Burns '21 married Bobby Cope on Oct. 22, 2022.

Bryn McDermott '13 married Andrew Gavre on Oct. 29, 2022.

Denzel Okinedo '19 married Sarah Hale on Dec. 18, 2022.

Niki Ozburn '22 married Jeffrey Clayton Buchweitz on April 1, 2023.

NEW ALUMNI DIRECTORY

We are excited to announce the launch of our new alumni directory. With a strong community of over 9,000+ living alumni, our goal is to facilitate connections among our graduates across the country.

The alumni directory is a valuable resource that shares the names and class years of our alumni, organized by geographic location. Whether you're seeking professional networking opportunities or hoping to reconnect with old classmates, this directory can be helpful to you.



We believe that this directory will strengthen our alumni network and create opportunities for collaboration, mentorship and friendship. Don't miss out on this chance to reconnect and grow with your fellow alumni. To receive a copy of the directory, please email the Office of Alumni Relations at lawalum@samford.edu.

Meet the Class of 2026

Samford's Cumberland School of Law welcomed new Juris Doctor students during their first-year orientation on Aug. 8-11. The 156-person class is comprised of students who represent:



38 college majors

	LSAT	GPA
Medians	155	3.61
75th	157	3.79
25th	152	3 33

61 colleges and universities

The **most diverse entering class** in Cumberland School of Law history





Did you know your retirement account can help you and Cumberland School of Law?

On Dec. 29, 2022, President Biden signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 ("Act"). Contained in the provisions of the Act is the new Secure Act 2.0, which addresses many issues related to retirement planning. For example, starting in 2023 the Act raises the age for required minimum distributions (RMDs) to age 73 for individuals born between 1951 and 1959 and age 75 for those born in 1960 or later.

The Act also creates two new important charitable planning opportunities: qualified charitable distributions (QCD), inflation adjustment and QCD for rollover to life income plans.

Beginning in 2024, the Act provides for an annual increase (indexing for inflation) of the annual limit for QCDs, also known as IRA charitable rollovers. A QCD is a tax-free transfer from an IRA to a qualified charity. The QCD gift does not qualify for an income tax charitable deduction but instead escapes income tax liability on the

transfer. The current annual limit for a QCD to charity (not to a life income plan as explained below) is \$100,000. The QCD limit will increase in 2024 by an amount to account for inflation.

The QCD must be transferred directly to the charity, or a life income plan, from the IRA. The transfer cannot be made to a donor's checking or another account then to the charity or the life income plan. The donor's IRA custodian can make the delivery by check or wire delivery. Money in another type of qualified retirement plan can be transferred tax-free to an IRA then from the IRA to charity or the life income plan. The QCD cannot be made to a donoradvised fund, supporting organization, or private foundation.

To learn more about the Secure 2.0 Act, please reference the American Council on Gift Annuities at acga-web.org. To support Cumberland School of Law through your retirement planning, contact Anne Marovich, senior advancement officer: amarovic@samford.edu.

Serve Day 2023

First-year students participated in the school's annual orientation serve day, volunteering at numerous sites around Birmingham.







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